

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 1, 13, 17, 20, and 21 are amended, and claims 23-25 are added. Claims 1, 13, 17, 20, and 21 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as failing to recite a positive functional interrelationship between the medium and the activities recited. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 20 has been amended to recite a method for executing a predetermined procedure in an order terminal.

The Applicants respectfully submit that independent method claim 20, as amended, particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a)

Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Fredlund et al. (U.S. 6,812,962);

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Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Fredlund et al. (U.S. 6,812,962);

claims 1, 2, 6-13, 15-18, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nardoizzi et al. (U.S. 6,636,837) in view of Jebens et al. (U.S. 6,321,231); and

claims 3-5, 14, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nardoizzi et al. in view of Jebens et al. in view of Fredlund et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejections is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

Arguments Regarding Independent Claims 20 and 21

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 20 has been amended to recite a combination of steps directed to a method for executing a program in an order terminal, including *inter alia*

generating order information by executing a program on an order terminal, and reading access information entered by a user by executing the program on the order terminal.

In addition, independent claim 21 has been amended to recite a combination of elements directed to a computer recording medium, including *inter alia*

an access information area on the computer-readable recording medium in which access information is recorded, and a program area on the computer-readable recording medium in which a program is recorded, the program causing a computer to execute procedures for generating order information regarding image data to be printed.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of features as set forth in each of independent claims 20 and 21 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Fredlund et al.

In contrast to the invention set forth in independent claims 20 and 21, as can in Fredlund et al. column 6, lines 22-46, this document merely discloses a communication device 20 for receiving a memory card 16 and for reading and forwarding the information on the memory card 16 to a service provider. Communication device 20 of Fredlund et al. is not capable of executing a program to generate order information. Further, the memory card 16 of Fredlund et al. fails to include a program area recorded with a program causing a computer to execute procedures for generating order information.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of features as set forth in each of independent claims 20 and 21 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Fredlund et al.

Therefore, independent claims 20 and 21 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) are respectfully requested.

Arguments Regarding Independent Claims 1, 13, and 17

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a print order system including *inter alia*

an order terminal directly connectable via the network to each of the order reception servers in the plurality of photograph processing agencies, the order terminal generating the order information and placing an order for a print of the image data by directly transferring the order information to a corresponding one of the order reception servers installed in any specific one of the plurality of photograph processing agencies after directly accessing the order reception server of the specific photograph processing agency.

In addition, independent claim 13 recites a combination of elements in a printing system including *inter alia*

order reception servers enabling direct reception of order information and installed respectively in a plurality of photograph processing agencies, each having a photographic printer for outputting a print of image data; and

the order reception servers enabling direct reception of the order information from an order terminal via a network, the order information being generated by the order terminal used for placing an order for the print of the image data,

each of the order reception servers being capable of directly transferring the order information to any other order reception server in any other of the plurality of photograph processing agencies.

In addition, independent claim 17 recites a combination of elements in a order terminal including *inter alia*

the order terminal being directly connectable via a network to each of a plurality of order reception servers in a plurality of other photographic processing agencies, the order reception servers enabling reception of order information regarding the image data, and the order terminal generating the order information and placing a print order regarding the image data by directly transferring the order information to a specific one of the order reception servers installed in a specific one of the plurality of other photograph processing agencies after directly accessing the specific order reception server of the specific photograph processing agency.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of features as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 13, and 17 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nardozzi et al. and Jebens et al.

First of all, the Examiner concedes (page 5 of the Office Action) that Nardozzi et al. does not explicitly disclose “each of the order reception servers in the plurality of photographic agencies.” The Examiner, however, then asserts that Jebens et al. teaches “each of the order reception servers in the plurality of photographic agencies” (col. 22, lines 24-25). Regarding the jobbers/suppliers 16 disclosed in Jebens et al., the Applicants respectfully submit that they do not correspond to the plurality of photographic processing agencies of the present invention. In the system provided by Jebens et al., users 12, 14, and 16 communicate via the host server 10, rather than being directly connectable via a network,

as presently claimed. Further, neither the host server 10 nor the provider server 14 is installed in either the jobbers or the suppliers 16.

Since the combination of Nardozzi et al. and Jebens et al. fails teach each and every one of the claimed features of the present invention as set forth in each of claims 1, 13, and 17, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness based on the combination of Nardozzi et al. and Jebens et al.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements/steps as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 13, and 17 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nardozzi et al. and Jebens et al. Therefore, each of independent claims 1, 13, and 17 is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 23-25 have been added to set forth additional features of the present invention. Support for added claims can be found in the specification, for example, on page 5, lines 10-14.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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